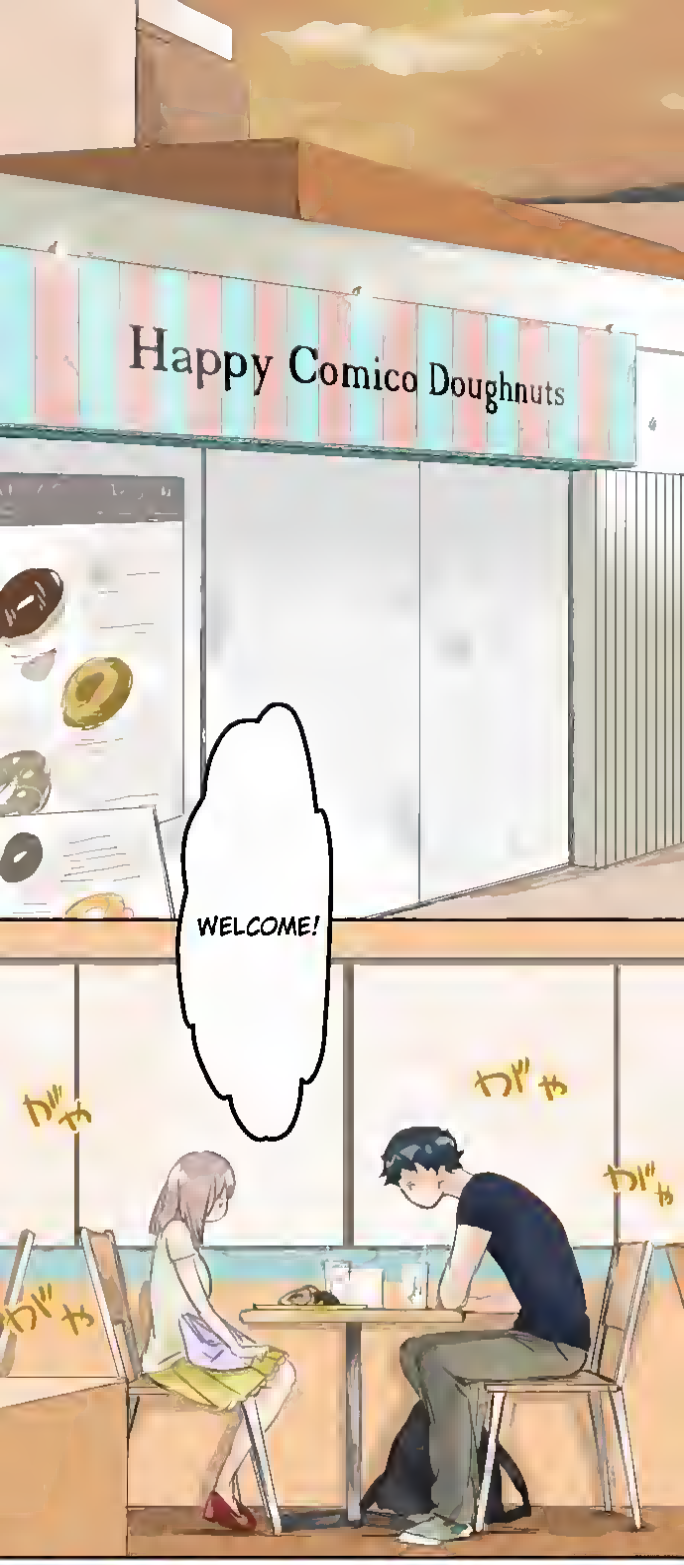
Happy Comico Doughnuts
WELCOME!
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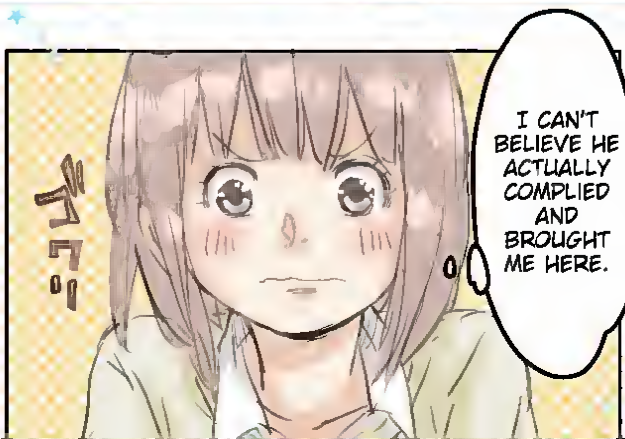
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE ACTUALLY COMPLIED AND BROUGHT ME HERE.
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NO WAIT THAT'S WRONG. I'M LETTING HIM TREAT ME.
I MEAN I DIDN'T AGREE BECAUSE OF THE SWEET, SWEET TEMPTATION OF DONUTS...
SO ARE YOU GOING TO EAT?
I WILL! I'M EATING!
THANKS FOR THE DONUTS!

AH... NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL HAPPI-NESS.
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LOOKS LIKE SHE'S NOT UPSET ANY-MORE. I'M GLAD.
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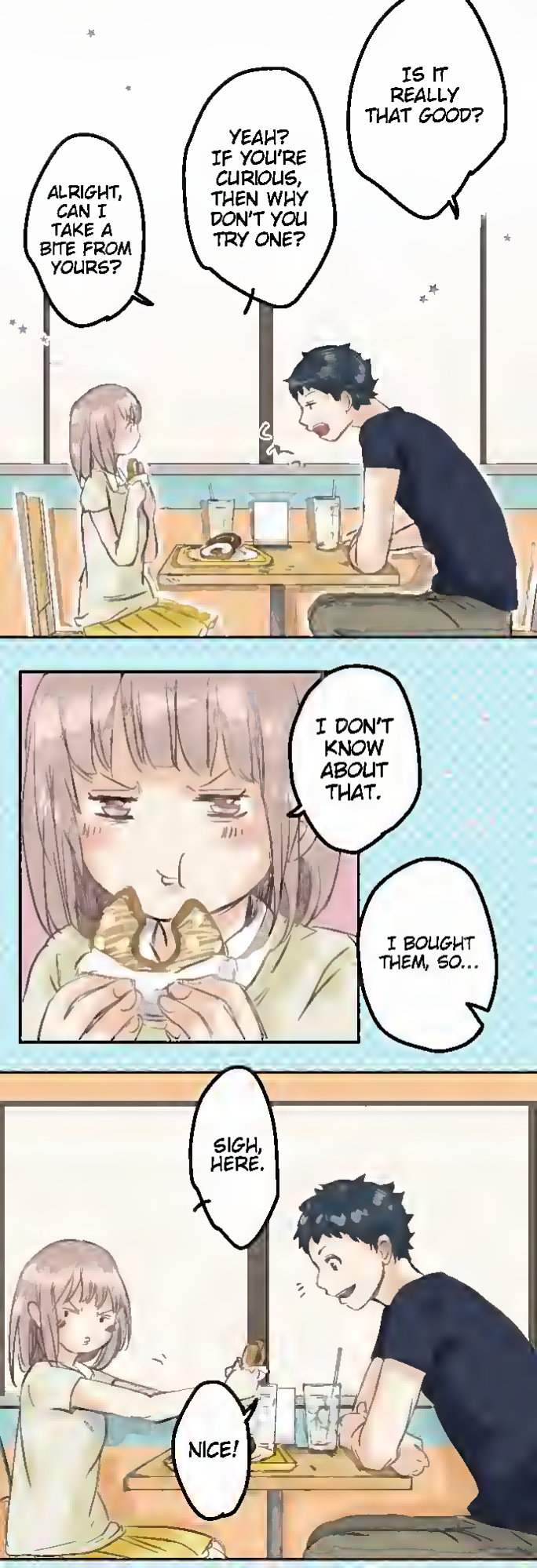
I'M STILL WORRIED, THOUGH. THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HER CRY...
IN THE TIME THAT I WAS AWAY, SHE TURNED INTO QUITE A GIRL...

WHY WAS SHE CRYING...?
MAYBE I WENT TOO FAR WHEN I CALLED HER SELFISH?
HEY, I WAS JUST TELLING THE TRUTH.
IF I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, I SAY IT.

Koi Inu

Chapter 16: To Meet Once More


IS IT REALLY THAT GOOD?
YEAH? IF YOU'RE CURIOUS, THEN WHY DON'T YOU TRY ONE?
ALRIGHT, CAN I TAKE A BITE FROM YOURS?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
I BOUGHT THEM, SO...
SIGH, HERE.
NICE!

THANKS FOR THE DONUT!
EH?
WAIT A...
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AN INDIRECT KISS!!
ARE YOU AN IDIOT!?
BUT YOU SAID GO AHEAD JUST NOW.

ANGRY AGAIN.
I SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO THAT, RIGHT?
AGH NO USE COMPLAINING, IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE NOW.
IN 6TH GRADE,
I WAS AROUND 5 FEET TALL.
SO I WAS AMONG THE TALLER KIDS IN MY CLASS, AND BECAUSE OF THAT I GOT INVITED TO PLAY MINI-BASKETBALL. THAT WAS HOW I FIRST GOT STARTED PLAYING BASKETBALL.
THE COACH AT THE TIME PULLED ME ASIDE, AND HE SAID TO ME,
"YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME THE BEST THERE EVER WAS. TO THE REST OF US, YOU'RE A SHINING LIGHT OF HOPE."
AND SO I THOUGHT I COULD MAGICALLY BECOME INSANELY GOOD AT BASKETBALL.
SOUNDS GOOD!
AS I PROGRESSED THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL, I TRAINED TWICE AS HARD AS EVERYONE ELSE WHILE AIMING TO BECOME THE BEST.
IN OTHER WORDS, IF I COULD DO IT, THEN I WOULD. THE RESULTS FOLLOWED, AND I HAD FUN DOING IT.
BUT ON THE WAY, I CAME ACROSS A LOT OF OBSTACLES THAT I COULDN'T OVERCOME, SO I QUIT.
THE TRUTH IS THAT I'D ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO GO ON TO A COLLEGE WITH A STRONG BASKETBALL PROGRAM, BUT THAT WAS NO LONGER A VIABLE PLAN.
WHILE I WAS DWELLING ON WHAT TO DO,
I TOOK ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR OTHER COLLEGES, INCLUDING THE ONE WE'RE AT NOW.

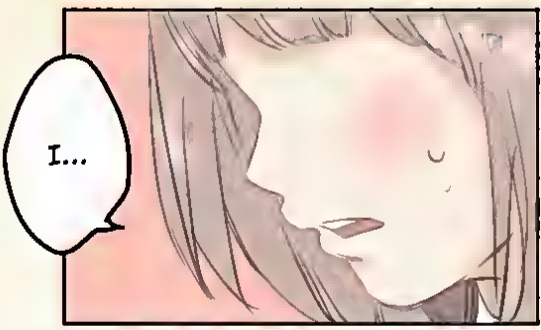
MY FIRST LOVE.
TH-TH-TH-

SO ARE YOU BETTER NOW?
HIS FIRST...
LOVE...

YEP.

WELL THAT'S GOOD!

IGA-RASH!!
UM


I...

カアアア
I'M
ALSO REALLY HAPPY I GOT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

……

I'M GOING HOME NOW.

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……

WAIT, CHIYO!

WERE YOU BEING SERIOUS JUST NOW?

I'M NOT LYING.

REALLY!?

REALLY.

NO WAY!

I'M SO GLAD!

HEY!

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!? ARE YOU AN IDIOT!? LET GO!!

NO.

WHEN YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I DON'T WANT TO LET GO AT ALL.

DIDN'T YOU HUG ME AFTER BURSTING INTO TEARS?

AT LEAST LET ME DO THIS.

MY HEAD FEELS WEIRD.

ISN'T HE EMBARRASSED? WHAT IS HE SAYING!? IGARASHI..!

LISTEN.

I HAVE A SMALL REQUEST.

A-... ABOUT WHAT ...?

LET'S HAVE DINNER TOGETHER.

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I DON'T SEE WHY NOT?

IN THAT MOMENT, I WANTED TO PROLONG OUR TIME TOGETHER JUST A BIT MORE.

to be continued...

THE CAROLUS MENGUS TRANSLATION GROUP